Kerala during the year 1981 agreed to review the issue of sanction after 20 years;

(d) the reaction of Government thereto;

(e) whether the Kerala Government has submitted any fresh proposal for the silent valley project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) According to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), no project report for the setting up of Hydro-electric Project in Kerala is under examination for techno-economic clearance. However, Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) has been requested by CEA to submit latest detailed cost estimates in respect of Adirapally HEP (2×80 MW) for the purpose of investment approval. The environment clearance issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 1985 in respect of Puyankutty Stage-I (2×120 MW) HEP has lapsed since the project work has not commenced and, therefore, will require fresh environment clearance. According to KSEB, application for forest and environment clearance in respect of Mankulam HEP (40 MW) has been submitted on 30.5.2001 and 5.6.2001 respectively.

(c) to (f) No fresh proposal for the Silent Valley Project has been submitted to the Government of India.

Conversion of Mega Hydel Projects into Mini Hydel Projects in H.P.

†1889. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of some of the Mega Hydel Projects in Himachal Pradesh the hills are being demolished to a large extent and the environment is being spoiled;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are considering to convert Mega Hydel Projects into Mini Hydel Projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Government is laying emphasis on the development of the hydro power potential of the country, including that of Himachal Pradesh, as it is a renewable, economic, non-polluting and environmentally benign source of energy. Hydroelectric projects are taken up for execution only after due environmental appraisal. Hydro Power Projects sometimes impact on the environment on account of construction requirements, roads, and submergence in reservoir projects. Whenever hydro power projects are taken up for execution, environmental concerns are addressed and the impacts attended with great care.

There is no proposal under consideration to convert Mega Hydel Projects into Mini Hydel Projects.

National Integrated Energy Policy

†1890. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to announce national integrated energy policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) An Energy Policy Committee has been set up in the Planning Commission to formulate an integrated energy policy for the country. The draft report of the Committee has been prepared.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.